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LANSING — The Michigan Manufacturers Association (MMA) announced its support today for the Michigan Career Pathway Alliance and its recommendations designed to improve student access to pathways leading to rewarding and good-paying careers in Michigan and help schools enhance their program offerings.

"The Michigan Career Pathway Alliance will deliver a robust pipeline of talent for in-demand jobs at a time when the manufacturing industry's talent gap continues to affect Michigan's ability to compete with other states and around the world," said Chuck Hadden, MMA president & CEO. "Collaboration between schools and job-providers is critical to strengthening our talent base and preparing the next generation for all the career options in front of them."

The alliance's recommendations would help showcase flexibility in the Michigan Merit Curriculum while ensuring its rigor remains intact. Additionally, the recommendations set forth address one of the greatest threats to our state's sustained prosperity — our growing talent gap.

Among a number of proposals that get to the root of that issue, these recommendations:

- Increase opportunities for student career exploration;
- Improve the ability of schools to recruit and retain CTE instructors; and
- Enhance career counseling by supporting districts with the hiring of "career development facilitators" who support school counselors, with the focus of helping students explore career options, be it early or middle college, an apprenticeship, community college or four-year degree

For information about the Michigan Career Pathway Alliance, visit: www.michigan.gov/micareerpathways.

For 115 years, the MMA has been serving Michigan manufacturers and related industries by providing effective representation at Michigan's Capitol, timely educational seminars, quality and competitive-rate insurance programs, informational e-newsletters and a monthly magazine. Visit www.mimfg.org for more information.

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